

WHOLE NO. 9211.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1861.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

Arrival of the Transports Illinois and Ericsson from Port Royal.

Occupation of the Whole of Hilton Head Island.

Capture of Tybee Island and Braddock's Point.

The Mouth of the Savannah River to be Closed.

Map of the New Scene of Operations.

Another Expedition En Route Southward.

Secession Prisoners on Board the Illinois, &c., &c., &c.

The United States transport Illinois, Wm. Mathison commander, arrived at this port yesterday morning from Port Royal, S. C., having sailed thence on the 25th inst., at twenty minutes past four o'clock P. M., making the run in fifty-one hours. She brings a mail and seventy-four passengers.

Captain E. M. Ward, of the United States ship of war Dale, has returned on account of ill health, bringing with him fourteen prisoners captured in the schooner Specie and Mabel, by the Dale. Their names are as follows:

OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE SCHOONER SPECIE.
W. H. Westcott, Captain. Emmet Timberlain,
Richard Campbell, Mate. John Morgan,
Albert Morgan, John Morgan.

OFFICERS AND CREW OF SCHOONER MABEL.
Wm. F. Black, Captain. Archibald Hunter,
Wm. P. Johnson, Mate. John Morgan,
John Smith, John Morgan, Antonio Rodriguez.

The Illinois stopped at Port Lafayette to land a rebel prisoner (Dr. Edward Culbert), a planter, who was captured on Ladies' Island, near Beaufort, by some of the Seventh Connecticut regiment. She has also a number of sick from the Wabash, Dale, Pawnee and Cananda, to be sent to the Naval Hospital.

The steamship Ericsson, Cowles commander, from Hilton Head Island, with forty-three returned laborers and one prisoner, also arrived yesterday.

The schooner Essex, from New York, arrived at Hilton Head on the 23d inst., having been chased and fired at by a privateer several times between St. Helena Sound and Hilton Head.

The United States steamer Flag arrived in Port Royal on the 24th inst., and brought intelligence of the taking possession of Tybee Island, at the mouth of the Savannah River, which had been evacuated by the rebels. The Flag, Augusta, Pocahontas and Seneca fired a few shells on the island, which, not being responded to, they immediately sent launches, with marines, on shore, and took possession of it without opposition.

The British frigate Immortalite was lying in Port Royal harbor when the Illinois called.

The United States troops under General Sherman have built intrenchments across the whole island. The "darks" continued to come in daily in large numbers.

Large quantities of cotton yet remained untouched in storehouses and barns, and also unguined.

The deaths among the troops average two per day. A prevailing disease among the troops was sore throat, probably caused by exposure to the cold weather.

Another expedition, under command of General Vile, consisting of two brigades, was fitted out at Port Royal, and would sail in a few days for the Southern coast.

The transports Empire City, Cahaws, Marion, McClellan, Matanzas, Oriental, and the light draught gunboats, were to be employed in the new expedition.

Beaufort was still unoccupied by the United States troops; two gunboats remained anchored off the town.

Among the deaths at Hilton Head were the following:—G. H. Hubbard, of the Eighth Maine regiment, Private Tridion, of the Eighth Maine regiment, Private Nash, of the Ninth Maine regiment.

OUR HILTON HEAD CORRESPONDENCE.
HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL, S. C., Nov. 18, 1861.

Expulsion of the Highlanders from St. Helena Island—Flight of All the White Residents Except Thieves and Negro Stealers—Capture of One of the Brigs and the Light of the Negroes—The Advance Upon Charleston—Capture of a British Schooner—The Naval Expedition to the Southern coast, &c., &c.

Last Sunday, happening into Colonel Nobles' (of the Seventh New York Highlanders) headquarters, he stated that it was his intention to occupy St. Helena Island with a party of his regiment. Captain Mearns, being present, invited me to accompany him. We did not leave camp until Tuesday, when we commenced to cut a road through the island so as to transport the necessary supplies; but we found that it was a harder task than we anticipated, for the further we advanced the deeper we went, until we found ourselves up to our middles in mud and water. Gladly did we receive the order from Maj. Morrison to retrace our steps, and around the island, where he would have been transported to him, as he had landed during the afternoon and had taken possession of the island. As it was, some of the command did not arrive until the following morning between two and three o'clock, worn down with fatigue and hunger; but they soon had spread before them turkey and chickens, sweet potatoes, &c., which the negroes brought in by the cartload. The negroes received us kindly. They could not do too much for us, particularly as we did for everything they brought in; not even an orange was taken without an equivalent being given.

Here I must digress from my subject. It is a poor policy to pursue, to have to spend millions to occupy the enemy's country, and as soon as we are landed to pay for every necessary thing that is needed, thus giving him the means to carry on this war against us. Napoleon's idea was that the enemy should support his army while in their country; and why not in our case? They commenced the war, and they should be made to pay for it. But I leave that to wiser heads than mine to determine.

The plantation where we landed belonged to Dr. James H. has a fine large house, beautifully furnished, and large, tastefully laid out garden, which entirely surrounds the house. Wednesday morning Major Morrison, with a party of five or six mounted, went for a scout. To visited some of the five or six plantations, all deserted except by the negroes. On inquiring of them if any white people were on the island, they answered that I had gone to the main, except some four or five on the other end of the island, who had about the woods in the day, and at night they visited the different plantations, robbing and pilfering everything they could lay hands on; so that others would land in small boats at night to carry and carry the negroes off, and if the slaves resisted them they would shoot them down in their tracks. Then night came the negroes would take to the woods, to find plenty of corn, sweet potatoes, poultry, also a good deal of cotton in the gin houses—some all ready for market, but the most just as it was gathered and stored.

The following morning (Colonel Nobles) arrived. After breakfast he took Captain John A. Falconer's company and advanced them some five miles to act as pickets. No same night the negroes came in with the news that party had landed to carry on their game of stealing and shooting negroes. Captain Falconer in the morning

looked him of his company, with a negro as a guide, to try and capture them. He went about six miles further on, and after procuring a couple of horses, he mounted one of his men to go around by the beach to destroy the boat and prevent the enemy's retreat, while he advanced through the woods. The party arrived on the beach at the point designated by the negro, where they espied a robber about three hundred yards off, in a boat, trying to make his escape. They immediately leveled their muskets and ordered him to land, which he did. He proved to be Benjamin Chaplain, a resident of St. Helena Island. He is a captain of a mounted rifle company, and a terror to all the negroes on the island.

When Captain Falconer brought him in, the negroes laughed and danced, and flocked around Captain Falconer, embracing his legs, kissing his hands, and seemed to be perfectly wild with joy at the capture of their dreaded enemy. Chaplain said that, according to Lincoln's proclamation, any person living quietly at home and pursuing their regular business would not be molested, and that he was then looking after his property. He also attempted to bribe Captain Falconer by telling him if he would let him go any sum he would demand he could have. As soon as he was taken before General Stevens a polite note was dispatched to the United States steamer Vixen for the captain to come on shore, as he was well acquainted with the prisoner and all of his antecedents. This is the first capture that has been made by any of Gen. Stevens' brigade. Captain Falconer stated that he could have captured the whole of them, but a peremptory order came for him to return at once. Yesterday the whole of the Seventy-ninth returned to their old camp on Bay Point.

Colonel Nobles tells me that this expedition will seek its way through the middle passage (between Charleston, and the reinforcements will be sent on as fast as possible. The fresh brigade, he expects, will be the first lot of troops sent. With the Seventy-ninth in the advance, would soon make short work of it, supported by the gunboats and those who are here already.

There is a village on St. Helena Island called by the same name. One white man remained there—a true Unionist. I have been unable to find out his name. A man by the name of Coffin has several fine plantations on the island. He had to flee, as the planters around threatened to tar and feather, then hang him. He has a Northern lady for a wife, who fed the negroes as if they were human beings, not brutes. Most of the planters deal out to the negroes one peck of corn a week, which is all that is allowed them. If they raise a hog or chicken it must be kept up and fed from the negroes' allowance.

An English schooner was captured off this port yesterday afternoon, trying to run the blockade, supposed to have come from the British provinces. She is now under the guns of the Wabash.

The steamship Vanderbilt hauled into the Baltic's berth this morning, to commence discharging her enormous cargo, which is larger than any two other ships in the harbor. The Vanderbilt and Ocean Queen alone carried one fourth of the troops out on this expedition besides the immense quantity of rations and cargo, consisting of commissary, quartermaster's and ordnance stores, camp equipment, &c. The Vanderbilt, with her powerful condensers, has supplied one-half of the fleet with fresh water since their arrival at this port.

The ship last furnished you with the names of the different islands between Hilton Head and Charleston, and the fortifications and number of guns on each, and also spoke of the necessity of forwarding large reinforcements to this place, and at once, so as to make this point the base of operations in carrying this war into Africa; also the necessity of contradicting such abolition journals as the New York Tribune, which is leading the public astray by printing, day after day, that the South cannot hold out long, as they are in want of the necessities of life. I say here, as I wrote in my last, that the sooner that is to an eye witness—the steamship Vanderbilt, supplying the whole fleet with fresh water from her condenser, Captain Leafe supplying the new expedition with all his boats, some twenty in number; Chief Engineer, Mr. Germaine, supplying the Quartermaster with an enormous stock of camp equipage to drive piles to build a wharf, and the chief clerk, Mr. McLeary, accommodating the army officers on board until their quarters are fixed on shore. These are a few of the many acts of accommodation this fleet has rendered on this expedition.

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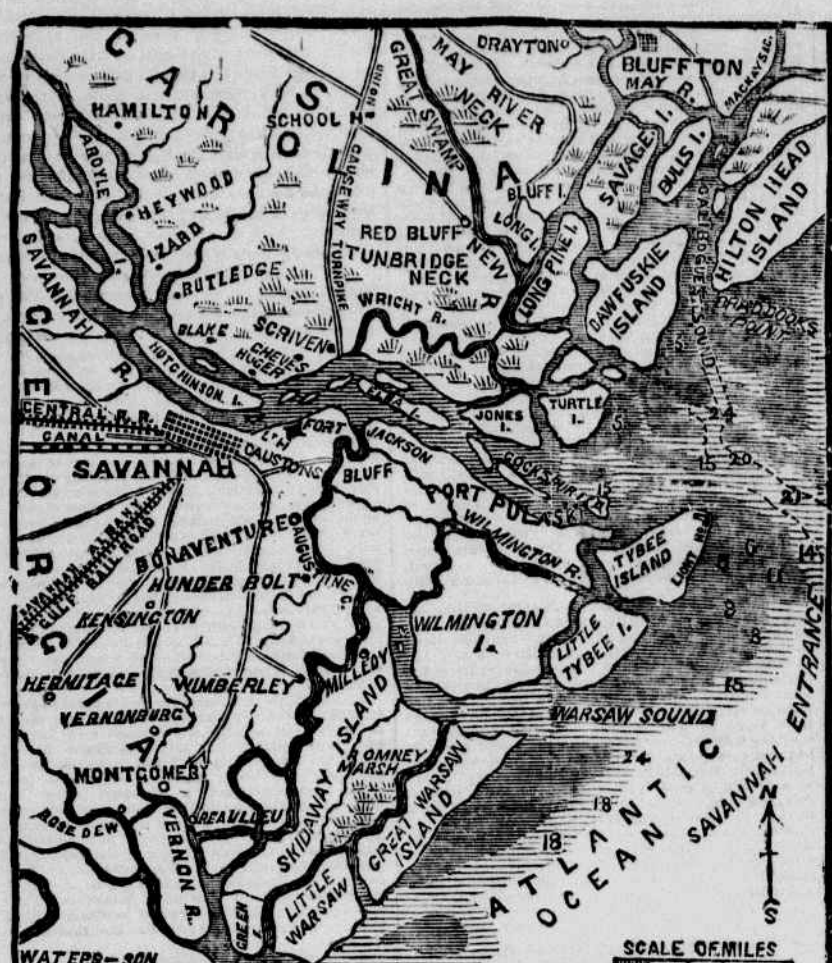
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THE NEW AMERICAN LAW OF BLOCKADE.

The Port of Savannah—Position of Tybee Island and Braddock's Point, Just Captured by Com. Dupont—Scene of the Stone Fleet Operations.



improvements are in progress of construction, which will soon raise this place, with its fourteen thousand military inhabitants, to the dignity of a city, with the best harbor in the South. This is only the development of the enterprise of the "Yankee" people.

The British steam frigate Immortalite, from New York, arrived here yesterday. When Commodore Dupont learned she was off the bar he at once dispatched two pilots to bring her into port. She arrived here at about ten o'clock A. M., under a full head of steam, and was taken to an anchorage off Bay Point. The customary salute of twenty-one guns was exchanged between the Britisher and the flagship Wabash. The British commander subsequently visited the Wabash, and was received with the highest honors. He also visited Hilton Head, was received in due form by Gen. Sherman, and conducted through the late rebel Fort Walker (now named Fort Welles, in honor of the Secretary of War). There the British commander was greeted with another salute, fired by a detachment of the Third Rhode Island regiment.

I learn that the intercourse between Flag Officer Dupont and the British commander, Captain Hancock, has been of the most satisfactory character; a perfect understanding exists between them in regard to the objects of the British cruiser's visit, which are exclusively confined to the protection of British subjects in particular circumstances.

Captain Phillips, of the United States steam transport Mayflower, with a detachment of sailors from the gunboat Mercury, made a successful reconnaissance to Paris Island, eight miles from here, on Sunday last. The island is situated at the junction of Broad and Beaufort rivers. It is the property of Dr. Joseph Means, and is considered one of the most prolific places for the growth of Sea Island cotton in South Carolina. The place was entirely deserted by its white inhabitants; the slaves, of whom there were several hundred, alleged that their master made a future retreat on the day of the bombardment of Fort Walker without leaving them any instructions what to do with themselves. One old negro assumed to be the patriarch of the others; all were jolly and were, seemingly, having a jubilee over their master's retreat. The island is well stocked with cattle and garden vegetables. The mansion house is quite large, but the furniture was all displaced and most of it appropriated to ornament the negro quarters. Several large storehouses were filled with cotton, ready for market. No disposition, however, has been made to secure it as a prize.

The steamship Belvidere arrived here yesterday from Baltimore and Old Point, bringing the mail for the troops here and the horses of General Vile's brigade. Great anxiety was manifested by the troops to learn how the news of the capture of this place was received at the North. Newspapers were eagerly sought for, and one dollar per copy was freely offered for Heralds of the 14th inst.

Intelligence has been received here that the rebels are concentrating in force at Bluffton, on the mainland, ten miles from here. Another force of rebels, consisting of the Ninth and Twelfth regiments of South Carolina Volunteers, under the command of Colonels Hayward and Dugan, are encamped on Port Royal Island.

On Friday last five hundred Indians reached Pocotaligo from Savannah. Pocotaligo is ten miles north of Port Royal Island. The most strenuous exertions are being made by the rebels to impede the advance of our troops on Savannah and Charleston; but their efforts will all prove futile when our overwhelming forces shall be ready to take the initiative.

I have been permitted to see a memorandum of a report made by Commander Gillis, of the United States gunboat Seminole, to Flag Officer Dupont, giving an account of his recent visit to Beaufort. He alludes to the place as the "abomination of desolation." The white inhabitants, in their retreat, had sacrificed their property rather than allow it to fall into the hands of the negroes, and the destruction commenced by them was completed by the slaves. Houses were despoiled of their contents, stores were pillaged, and other works of vandalism were committed. About three hundred negroes were in the village.

General Sherman and Flag Officer Dupont made a reconnaissance of the village a few days ago. The result of their investigation was that, as the place possessed no strategic importance, it was not worth occupying.

At Hardeeville, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, eighteen miles west of Bluffton, and about twenty miles from here, between there and the Pocotaligo Railroad depot, there are 24,000 rebel troops concentrated under the command of Brigadier General Drayton. The majority of these soldiers have been impressed into the service, and therefore can have no desire to meet the Union troops in the field.

The gunboat Unadilla, Lieutenant Commanding Collins, and the gunboat Isaac Smith, Lieutenant Commanding Nicholson, went on a reconnaissance up Broad river yesterday. Nothing was specially observed, except numerous cotton plantations. A party of the officers landed and learned from intelligent negroes that the white planters had determined to burn the gathered cotton on the approach of the Union troops or gunboats. In confirmation of these statements two large barns were seen on fire as the vessels proceeded.

The gunboat Ottawa made a reconnaissance up Skull creek a few days since as far as Bluffton. As she approached the town about forty rebel cavalry sent a hasty retreat. The Lieutenant commanding reports the navigation from this place to Bluffton as exceedingly intricate and dangerous, except to vessels of very light draught.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Nov. 23, 1861.
General Sherman's Efforts to Destroy the Confederates' Still Blocking Out Camp—Probable Fight at Beaufort—Drilling the Infantry on the Beach—Laying off the Troops—An Express and Post Office to be Established, &c.

Nothing of particular interest has occurred in this vicinity since my letter of the 20th inst. General Sherman is displaying great zeal in fortifying his position here, and in a few weeks this post will be perfectly impregnable against any force the enemy may bring against it.

Contraband negroes are constantly coming into camp and placing themselves under the protection of our flag. The government at Washington should at once take measures for their final disposal. Up to this time several hundred have been employed very profitably in disembarking army stores from the fleet; others are employed on the new fortifications. The female slaves find plenty of employment in washing clothes for the troops. We have enough now to supply all demands, and those that may come in hereafter should be removed as they arrive.

The armed transport McClellan left here yesterday afternoon with Captain Saxton, Chief Quartermaster, on board, for Beaufort, for the purpose of removing from thence all goods that by law are confiscated to the federal government. Shortly after her departure firing was heard in the direction of Beaufort. I presume she was shelling a body of rebel scouts. The McClellan had not returned up to the hour of the sailing of the Ericsson.

Yesterday was observed as a general drill day among the troops in the landings and fringes. Sherman's light battery were practicing the entire afternoon. The infantry troops formed on the hard sand beach, and kept a fusillade for several hours. A detachment of two hundred and fifty sailors from the Wabash landed on French's Island early in the morning and exercised with boat howitzers the entire day.

Major Hewitt, Paymaster of the United States Army, is paying off the troops at this place. He has already paid the Forty-ninth New York regiment and the Third Rhode Island Volunteers, and the Eighth Maine regiment. The Forty-sixth and Forty-eighth New York regiments will be paid to-day.

under a general. The anchorage in every part is secure, there being no prevailing winds that can affect the safety of vessels. The beauties and value of this harbor cannot be too highly estimated. The inland water communication from the interior of the States of North Carolina and Georgia, emptying into this harbor, is of the best kind. The Republicans, in recounting the loss of this place, say that immediately after that event the women and children of the city were hurried out of town, and every measure taken to put the place in a state of defence. Six thousand troops were in Savannah on the 11th ult. Drafting troops were being recruited to.

Six companies of the Sixth Connecticut Volunteers occupy the harbor of the late rebel fortification at Beaufort's Point, the extreme southwesterly point of the island, eleven miles from here. The battery mounts four guns—one Columbiad (10 inch) and three thirty-two pounders. The former was not mounted. When the rebels retreated, on the 7th inst., they spiked the guns with "rat-tail" files. By dint of great exertion on the part of our ordnance officers the spikes have been withdrawn, and day before yesterday the Connecticut troops fired a salvo of artillery from them. The United States armed vessels, the Wabash, the Ericsson, and the gunboat Unadilla, were in the harbor on the 23d. I paid a visit to the new works now being constructed by our troops for the protection of this place. The line of circumvallation or inclosure is about one mile and a quarter from the harbor land, extending in a northerly and easterly direction across the island. Positions for mounting heavy guns will be placed at proper points. The whole line of inclosure will extend in a straight line over three miles. The whole will be surrounded by a wet ditch or canal, watered by the sea, twenty feet in width and twelve feet deep.

OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ON BOARD STEAMER McCLELLAN, Nov. 23, 1861.

Reception of the Gunboat Ottawa and Pembroke to Beaufort, with Captain Hancock, of the British Frigate Immortalite—A Derby's Account of the Flight of the Chinquapin—Appearance of Beaufort—Curious Coincidences, &c., &c.

On Thursday morning last the two gunboats Ottawa and Pembroke, left their anchorage off Hilton Head and steamed briskly off towards the exceedingly picturesque little town of Beaufort. The principal, and I may say only, object of this excursion was the showing of that town to Captain Hancock, of the British Frigate Immortalite, who is now in command of the frigate Immortalite, which is anchored in the harbor of Port Royal, with our own Wabash as an almost mate, and numbers of other ships of war.

Leaving the harbor and gliding quietly through the narrow river, skirted upon either side with magnificent plantations, we reach, after a trip of ten or twelve miles, the exceedingly Southern town of Beaufort. The town is situated upon an island of some eight or ten miles in extent, upon which there are as well as a number of most excellent plantations. Captain Stevens, of the Ottawa, having Captain Hancock as guest, landed with him, after taking every precaution for guarding against the possibility of a surprise. Accompanied by Lieut. Corbin, of the Wabash, Captains Hancock and Stevens, and five midshipmen, landed at the little landing where the little steamer Cecil used of old to land her numerous passengers. Proceeding to an examination of the town, the party became soon separated into numbers of small parties, who roved some one way and some the other, each in search of the prettiest mansions, gardens, &c. The houses were, for the most part, deserted by both whites and blacks, and they had been ransacked and the contents used in a most promiscuous manner. On the contrary, it was visible and remarked by all that those houses in which the servants had been left had escaped entirely the consequences of a number of mischievous darkeys' misdoings; for we were told that "de way den niggers conducted dey sells was uncommon;" and certainly the appearance bore ample testimony that such was undoubtedly the fact. Upon questioning one of the more intelligent of the contrabands, the following story was delivered, of which, as nearly as I can remember, I give you the words:—

"Well, massa, you neber did see how den white passen did take on when dey juss hear 'bout hundred ship come down off when dey packing and tracking, land four horse team, four mule team, ox team, all kind team, and tak' all thing could take, and all ladies and girls, cause they might do like dey did in Alexandria when dey take him." Upon inquiry how that was, I was told "That all den soldiers they did 'buse dose women most shameful,' violating them promiscuously." Den when dey hear dat all ships done pass battery down dere, all clear right out and don't come back, only sometime when noship here, den run away 'gain when youse all come back; den dey drive off all we nigger and tell we dat you gwine to take us all down South and sell us for berry low price." The idea of being sold for "berry low price" was to him intensely distasteful. The town may have two or three thousand inhabitants, perhaps, but the number that were left during the winter months, for the pyretics of the city seem to have an attraction for the chivalry quite irresistible to them.

The buildings are mostly of wood, with the wide verandas of the southern country, many almost hidden in the trees, many of which are orange trees, upon which the golden fruit is thickly clustered. At the Arsenal we found a number of guns, with their trunnions broken; other articles were broken and a few gun carriages were burned. Near by we passed the jail, the only occupant of which was an old tomcat, evidently not in the least anxious to leave.

The servants of one house told us that their master broke most of the furniture, and then when he left they did the rest—for the fun of the thing.

After a ramble of an hour or so all of the party were gathered at the landing, and soon were again upon the deck of the model gunboat Ottawa, where Captain Stevens had made preparations for refreshing the inner man, "our troops under the malignity" and each, "burly engaged" the soldiers with a simple but ample testimony that such was the opinion of the party.

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Upon inquiry how that was, I was told "That all den soldiers they did 'buse dose women most shameful,' violating them promiscuously." Den when dey hear dat all ships done pass battery down dere, all clear right out and don't come back, only sometime when noship here, den run away 'gain when youse all come back; den dey drive off all we nigger and tell we dat you gwine to take us all down South and sell us for berry low price." The idea of being sold for "berry low price" was to him intensely distasteful. The town may have two or three thousand inhabitants, perhaps, but the number that were left during the winter months, for the pyretics of the city seem to have an attraction for the chivalry quite irresistible to them.

The buildings are mostly of wood, with the wide verandas of the southern country, many almost hidden in the trees, many of which are orange trees, upon which the golden fruit is thickly clustered. At the Arsenal we found a number of guns, with their trunnions broken; other articles were broken and a few gun carriages were burned. Near by we passed the jail, the only occupant of which was an old tomcat, evidently not in the least anxious to leave.

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